THE FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria was held at the Temperance Hall on Monday evening, 13th June, there being a good attendance. The Rev. J. J. Halley, one of the Vice-Presidents, occupied the Chair.

Mr. W. Patten was added to the roll of members; and Messrs J. Hicks, G. G. Ross, J. D. Scott, Geo. Wharton, — Scott, R. B. Patey, C. F. Wenborn, W. Gordon, jun., F. S. Dobson, and Dr. S. Bernase, were nominated for ballot at next meeting.

Dr. Lucas gave notice of his intention to move the following alterations and additions to the Rules, viz.:—"That the annual conversazione be held on the third Tuesday in April of each year: That the members of the Committee retire annually, but be eligible for re-election: That one Vice-President shall retire each year in rotation, and not be eligible for re-election: That the President shall retire annually, and shall not, after the second year, be eligible for re-election."

Mr. F. C. Christy's paper on the Lepidoptera of Japan was read by Mr. Goldstein; but, in the absence of the writer, the discussion thereon was postponed until next meeting.

Mr. Watts gave an explanation of some fine fossil Polyzoa from the Oligocene beds at Mount Martha, of which he had 55 species, all very carefully prepared for the microscope; also several species of foraminifera, microscopic mollusca, sponge spicules, &c. This exhibit was interesting from the fact of its being the first collection of Eocene Polyzoa shown in the colony, although their existence had long been known to Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Bailey, the latter being the first discoverer.

Mr. Luehmann read a short paper by Baron von Müeller on the orchid (*Pterostylis vittata*) recently found at Brighton by Mr. C. Walter, describing its general appearance, and giving an interesting history of the plant.

Amongst the numerous exhibits brought to the meeting may be mentioned some fossil *Cypreæ* from Mount Martha, Royal Park, &c., by Mr. J. F. Bailey; two species of *Lepidoptera*, by Mr. F. G. A. Barnard; fossils from Mordialloc, by Mr. J. E. Dixon; 215 species of *Carabidæ*, by Mr. P. Dattari; a fine group of *Goliathus cetonidæ*, and collection of dried Ferns and Lycopods, by Mr. C. French; and by Mr. D. Best, a few of the Longicorn species of *Curculionidæ* found near Melbourne.

After the usual conversazione the meeting terminated.

A TRIP TO BRIGHTON AND ELSTERNWICK.

BY A FIELD NATURALIST.

Friday, the 1st July, being a partial holiday, a few members of the Field Naturalists' Club resolved to avail themselves of the opportunity to make an "unofficial" excursion to the above neighbourhood. Of those who had promised to be of the company several failed to put in an appearance at the appointed time, but we who did muster had every reason to congratulate ourselves upon having done so, as

the day turned out delightfully fine, and the success met with was, especially considering the season of the year, far in advance of what we had reason to, or indeed did, anticipate.

Arriving at Brighton at about half past 9 a.m., our party were not long in reaching the Red Bluff Hotel, after passing which a careful look-out was kept for the botanical specimens, these being the principal object of the excursion. Our vigilance was soon rewarded by the discovery of a fine patch of the beautiful, and hitherto very rare, orchid *Pterostylis vittata*, the flowers of which are of a dark red color. It was not, until very recently, known that this plant grew about Brighton, a member of the F.N.C. being the first to discover it a few weeks ago, and our eminent botanist Baron von Müeller was both surprised and delighted when the specimen was presented to him. Proceeding on our way, many of another but much more common orchid, *P. concinna*, flowers of a greenish white, were met with. We should be glad to see this class of plants become more popular, as the flowers are really very pretty, many of them being most varied in their colors, and often assuming exceedingly curious forms. In all directions might be seen the common white heath, *Epacris impressa*, the growth of which is, however, considerably impaired by the too frequent attacks of the numerous cattle browsing about, its height, in consequence, being limited to somewhere about 12 to 18 inches. *Corræa speciosa*, a dark green shrub, having long greenish-yellow flowers, was occasionally seen, as was also *Billardiera scandens*, a small dark-leaved and scarce shrub, with small yellow flowers. Of *Hibbertias* two species were met with, viz., *H. diffusa*, and *H. stricta*, both showing well with their yellow flowers, the former being much the better of the two. The lovers of the fruit of the *Astroloma humifusa*, or native cranberry, will in a week or two hence be enabled to indulge their propensity for this luxury, as numbers of berries were seen approaching their edible period. This plant is of the creeper species, never growing higher than about an inch, and having brilliant scarlet flowers of about half an inch in length. *Daviesia ulicena*, a shrub having dark red flowers was well out, as were also two species of *Leucopogon*, viz., *L. virgatum* and *L. reichei*, both having small white flowers. Of Acacias the only species met with in flower was *A. suaveolens*. This species grows small, averaging six to eight feet, having long narrow leaves, and the flowers being of a light yellow color, and very highly scented. If flowering in summer, instead of the middle of winter, this tree would probably be a favorite resort for butterflies, beetles, &c.; but, as it was, not a living thing was found on it. *Leptospermum lævigatum*, or coast ti-tree, whose leaves are of an oval shape, half an inch in length, having a simple white flower, was rather plentiful, as was also a pretty little white flower with yellow centre, *Brachycome gramminifolia*, the plant of which grows to the height of about two to three inches. Growing on the cliff side facing the sea, the native *Clematis*, *C. microyhylla*, abounded; and those who are desirous of seeing this creeper in its beauty should take advantage of the present season to do so, as it is now covered with its simple but pretty little white flowers. *Banksia Australis*—or, as it is very commonly called, honeysuckle tree,—was fairly well out with its yellowish bottle-brush flowers; and it was in the wood of this tree that the only entomological specimens

were met with: it is now pretty well-known to entomological collectors as being the resort of the beautiful Longicorn beetle *Uracarthus triangalaris*, whose larvæ breed in it; and many of these were secured, as also, to the surprise of the searchers, several perfect insects, which, in the ordinary course of events, would not be expected to make their exit for at least a couple of months to come.

The plants we have enumerated are indeed but a very small percentage of those covering the whole of this delightful locality, than which we know of none offering a more interesting field to the natural history collector.

At a place called Rickett's Point, diligent search was made for fossil sharks' teeth, which are known to be obtainable there, and we were rewarded with four specimens, one of which was a remarkably fine one, being considerably over two inches in length. Why these fossils should only be found at this one particular spot is a mystery we leave to be explained by those better acquainted with the subject than, unfortunately, were any of those present.

On our way back to the Railway Station a member of the Club was met with who had been on ornithological sport intent, but he had evidently fared very badly, as his bag showed but one unfortunate specimen, that of a species of honey-eater. The 6·50 train was duly caught, and the one hope experienced by the whole of our party before separating was that we might shortly be enabled to arrange for another trip, and, if possible, with a larger number of members.

Correspondence.

LISTS OF SPECIES.

To the Editor of the Southern Science Record.

Sir,—The student of natural history in this colony has very up-hill work in obtaining knowledge of what has been done sufficient to enable him to do good work. It is this that prevents many from pursuing the study of natural history. The only general sources of information are from books upon the natural history of other countries; which, while being all that a student in such countries could desire, are not of very much use here. In England the student can get books, some of them very cheap, which will give him all information requisite; but information on the fauna of this colony cannot be obtained except at an enormous cost, and it would require a considerable library to hold all the books in which our species are described. The Melbourne resident has the advantage of the Public Library and Museum, but even then he cannot always find what he wants. I propose that you should publish lists of species known to exist here. I would suggest that you obtain, from those capable of giving the information, lists of the genera and species of whatever branch they may be working at; these lists would not be perfect, because some others may have additional species; and in a new country like this new ones are always being found; but they will be very useful as a record of our species as far as known, and be available to most people. I think the Southern Science Record should aim at being a record of our natural history, and these lists will be a very good commencement of such record. I would suggest that the first lists be published anonymously (the Editor satisfying himself that he has obtained them from reliable persons), because many might be prevented from supplying such lists from the fear that they would be rushed for specimens. No one, I presume, would be unwilling to exchange specimens. Supplementary lists should bear the names of the senders and the habitat. These lists of simply the names, genera, and species, with perhaps the authority for the specific name and habitat, but with no descriptions, would not take up much room in the